

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2015-0033-DNA**

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**June 2015**

**Spring Creek Canyon  
Connector Trails**

*Location: Montrose County, Spring Creek Canyon*

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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2015-0033 DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: Spring Creek Canyon Connector Trails

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T 48 N. R 10 W. Sec 27

T 47 N. R 10 W. Sec 4, 5, 8, 9

APPLICANT: COPMOBA and BLM Uncompahgre Field Office

BACKGROUND: The BLM completed the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan (TMP) (EA# CO-150-2008-33) in 2009. The proposed project would implement priority Dry Creek Travel Management Plan (TMP) objectives and management decisions for meeting Land Health Standards, minimizing areas that meet standards with problems, improving resource protection, and maintaining quality travel opportunities along with adequate and appropriate public access.

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures**

Construct non-motorized single track trails approximately three miles long combined in the Spring Creek Canyon Area. The new trails were identified and approved as new single-track trails in the Dry Creek TMP. It will be constructed to create a sustainable alignment and provide a non-motorized loop opportunity. Trail construction will begin in approximately August or September of 2015. Design features identified in CO-150-2008-33 EA will be applied.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan

Date Approved: December 1, 2009

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Page 29: "Approximately 16 miles of proposed route construction would occur." (LUP amendment contains map for proposed route locations.)

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment (CO-150-2008-33 EA) for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan, approved December 1, 2009.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes. The proposed action is a feature of the actions analyzed in the Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan, EA# CO-150-2008-33. The proposed project is within the same analysis area, and is specifically called for in the EA.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes. The range of alternatives analyzed in the Resource Management Plan Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA is appropriate. The EA analyzed the No Action alternative and three action alternatives, each with differing route mileages, uses and designations. The alternative selected is still appropriate because there are no additional environmental concerns, interests or resource values which would necessitate creation of further alternatives.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes. The existing analysis is valid for this proposed action. The land health assessment has not changed, special status species have not been added, and other conditions on the ground have not changed. We can reasonably conclude that new information or circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the proposed action.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes. The direct, indirect and cumulative effects from implementing the new proposed action would be similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The effects are similar in both scope (amount of area affected) and nature (type of projects) to those already analyzed.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes. Interagency review, scoping and multiple public comment periods were conducted during the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA. None of the comments or findings are in conflict with this proposed action.

**E. BLM Staff Consulted**

Glade Hadden	Cultural Resources, Paleontology, Native American Religious Concerns
Melissa Siders/Ken Holsinger	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species, Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Julie Jackson	Access and Transportation, Recreation
Jedd Sondergard	NEPA Compliance

**REMARKS:**

Cultural Resources: The proposed trail was examined for Cultural resources by the BLM archaeologist with negative results. There are not any known or anticipated National Register or otherwise eligible historic properties within the area of potential effect for the proposed trail, and no further work is required.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species: No Threatened or Endangers species are known or expected within the proposed trail area. There would be no effect to any federally listed or proposed species. Raptors surveys were conducted in the area June 17 2015<sup>1</sup>. No raptors were detected.

**Recommended Measure for BLM Sensitive Species:**

To the extent possible, observed reptiles will be avoided by trail building activities and will not be intentionally harmed. Any incidental observations of reptiles or sign during trail building activities will be documented in the project case file and reported to the BLM Biologist.

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<sup>1</sup> Siders, M.S. 2015. Raptor Survey Report for 2015-0033 DNA Spring Creek Canyon Connector Trails. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO.

To minimize impacts on migratory bird populations, it is recommended that no surface disturbing activities occur from May 15 through July 15. This timeframe encompasses the core breeding season for the majority of migratory birds in the project area. Project activities shall retain and avoid modifying identified cavity trees, snags, and perches in the project area.

Design Features from CO-150-2008-33 EA:

Surface disturbance would be kept to a minimum in order to maintain sufficient vegetation to protect soils, and the number of stream crossings would be kept to a minimum, in order to reduce impacts to wetlands and riparian areas.

Improvements would be implemented at stream crossings to reduce channel and riparian impacts.

All routes would be appropriately signed with allowed uses and seasons of use. Because signs are at times vandalized or removed, the user is responsible for determining the correct mode of travel based on official maps. Official maps would be made available to the public.

Design, construction and maintenance work for routes would be subject to the conditions and guidelines that create sustainable, low maintenance routes and maintain quality recreation. Maintenance of routes would be performed according to the Implementation and Monitoring Plan to be prepared, BLM annual work plans, and as funding permits.

Informational/Directional signs will be installed where needed.

### Conclusion

This proposed action is a feature of the selected (approved) alternative analyzed in EA# CO-150-2008-33. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for EA# CO-150-2008-33 determined that the selected alternative would not have significant effects. The conclusion in that FONSI dated April 9, 2009, remains valid.

The implementation decision for EA# CO-150-2008-33 identified this proposed action as a feature of the selected alternative. The Decision Record dated December 9, 2009, authorizes the route; another Decision Record and appeal period is not required.

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Project Lead: Julie Jackson

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:  Jedd Sondergard

Date 6/29/15

Signature of the Responsible Official



Barbara Sharrow

Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office

Date 7-12-15

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

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## United States Department of the Interior



**Bureau of Land Management**  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2505 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado 81401

In Reply Refer to: 2670 (CO-150)

TO: Project Record, 2015-0033 DNA Spring Creek Canyon Connector Trails  
FROM: Melissa Siders  
SUBJECT: Raptor Survey  
DATE: June 24, 2015  
CC: Julie Jackson

Raptor surveys were conducted along the two connector trails: East (Map 1) and West (Map 2). Surveys were conducted on June 17, 2015 between approx. 9am and 3pm. Survey methods were used based on Kennedy and Stahlecker<sup>1</sup> and Joy et. al.<sup>2</sup>. Expected species in the area were Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk and perhaps northern goshawk. Survey points were placed along the proposed route so as to have coverage within a 200m radius circle (see maps).

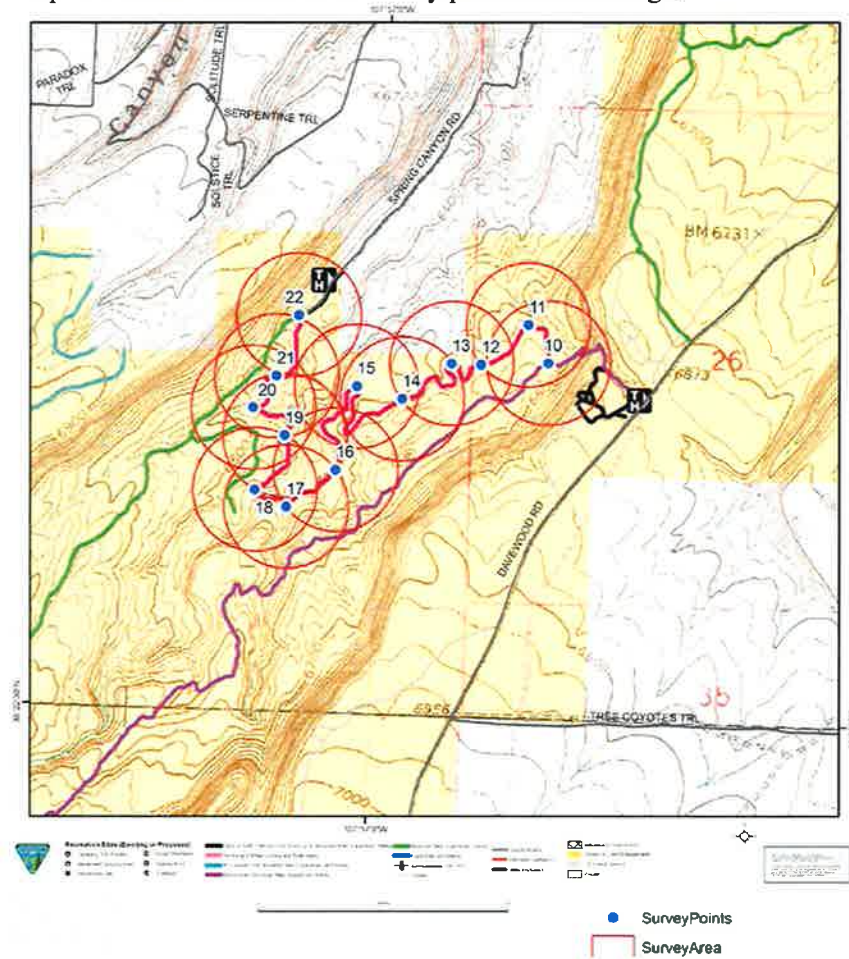
No raptor responses were detected.

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<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, P.L. and D.W. Stahlecker. 1993. Responsiveness of nesting Northern Goshawks to taped broadcasts of three conspecific calls. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 57:249-257.

<sup>2</sup> Joy, S.M., R.T. Reynolds, and D.G. Leslie. 1994. Northern goshawk broadcast surveys: hawk response variables and survey cost. *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 16:24-30.

Map 1. Eastern connector trail survey points and coverage.



Map 2. Western connector trail survey points and coverage.

